

# The Hamilton Connection

The Face of the Army in New York City

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## Asian-Pacific Month observed

Photos by  
Wei Chen

**W**ith the support of the Fort Hamilton Military Entrance Processing Station, Fort Hamilton observed Asian-Pacific Heritage Month May 25 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Jed R. Espiritu addressed the audience, Apolima Dance soloist Staff Sgt. Valery Valtrain followed with a performance, then 1st Sgt. Regina Dilbert demonstrated her Tae Kwon Do skills.

Traditional and cultural items were on display and Asian-Pacific food sampling were also offered.



*In celebration of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month, 1st Sgt. Regina Dilbert performs a Tae Kwon Do demonstration, above, and soloist Staff Sgt. Valery Valtrain, right, does an Apolima dance routine during the observance May 25 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center. Below, Soldiers treat themselves to Asian cuisine.*





# Hamilton honors fallen cops

*Photos by  
Wei Chen*

**F**ort Hamilton hosted its annual Wreath Laying Ceremony during Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week May 19.

Families of officers who were killed

in the line of duty were in attendance to remember and honor their sacrifice for their country.

Among those in attendance were William and Michelle McNaughton, parents of Staff Sgt. and New York Police Department Officer James McNaughton, who was killed in Iraq in 2005, and Leon Taylor, father of Sgt. and Officer Deon Taylor, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2008.

"It was a lovely event, a beautiful day, and a lovely ceremony, and it was great that I got to meet the McNaughton family," Taylor said. "When something like that happens, you never forget. It's not like someone got sick. It feels like yesterday. That was his second tour over there in Afghanistan. That's something he wanted to do though I didn't want him to."



**Leon Taylor, left, father of Sgt. and New York Police Department Officer Deon Taylor, and William and Michelle McNaughton, right, parents of Staff Sgt. and NYPD Officer James McNaughton attend the Wreath Laying ceremony in honor of fallen police officers May 19.**



## Appreciating love

**Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Stephens, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hamilton command sergeant major, left, and Col. Peter Sicoli, U.S. Army Garrison commander, express appreciation as they honor military spouses on Military Spouses Appreciation Day May 19. Army Community Services celebrated the spouses with a luncheon at a Bay Ridge Restaurant. (Photo by Wei Chen)**



# Hamilton aids in Fleet Week kickoff

*Story and photos by  
Cathy Santopietro*

**F**ort Hamilton welcomed the parade of ships with a 15-cannon Salute to the USS Kearsarge with its annual unofficial kickoff of Fleet Week May 24.

The day was planned with a festival of activities around the event. More than 1,200 school children and staff attended the event which included

a performance by the U.S. Coast Guard Silent Drill Team, static displays from Joint Task Force Empire Shield, tent set-ups and giveaways from the New York City Recruiting Battalion, the U.S. Navy and Department of Transportation. The Fire Department of New York City supported with their Smokehouse providing fire safety demonstrations and the local Community Emergency Response Team was there to lend a hand.

The Xaverian H.S. Band entertained with many musical selections as children enjoyed Binx the Magician performance.



**A U.S. Coast Guard Silent Drill Team member takes time to greet a young fan after her team performed for the salute May 24.**



**Photos clockwise from left to right: Hundreds of local school aged children watch Binx the Magician during their lunch break after the annual Salute to Ships tribute to Fleet Week May 24. Children from the child development center recite the "Pledge of Allegiance. Fort Hamilton fires a 15-gun Salute to the USS Kearsarge to unofficially kick off Fleet Week.**





# British Army returns to do battle

*Story and photos by  
Bruce Hill*

**T**he British Army has come, gone and has now returned centuries later. In August 1776, British forces invaded the Long Island shores igniting the Battle for Brooklyn with Gen. George Washington and the Colonial Army. British forces were eventually defeated in the American Revolutionary War and have yet to return to Brooklyn until now.

The British Army has once again returned to Fort Hamilton prepared for battle, but only this time, it rages a different war on the battlefield, namely, a Rugby field. The British Army Rugby team landed here May 28 with hopes of winning Rugby matches against two American teams.

"First let me say that it is indeed a great honor to not only be here in America, but to be here at Fort Hamilton," said Maj. Cammie Hasty, manager of the team. "The Fort Hamilton team and staff has gone above and beyond to show us tremendous hospitality."

The team played American teams at Columbia University May 31 where the Brits lost a see-saw war by one point 25-24 and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point June 3, score unknown.

"It's been more than 10 years since we've toured," Hasty said. "With this

year's return, we are touring with a developmental team for the future. We've taken many of our players from the A team as well as experienced players, who are the foundation of the team, to begin the building hopefully, a powerhouse Rugby squad."

He said the tour will also assist with freeing whatever jitters the team may have when competing in front of large crowds.

"Everyone feels the pressure because of the teams who have come before us and having to rely on our teammates," said Lance Cpl. James Dixon, team captain. "I've always wanted to be a part of the senior squad, as many young, new players aspire to be, and play in front of massive crowds of 82,000 people. If you don't feel that pressure, then you're probably in the wrong environment, because there's so much history behind the team."

History behind the team stems from Rugby's centuries-old history that is deeply rooted in the competitiveness of Greek mythology and ancient Olympics games that seems to have laid the cornerstones for American football. Looking like a combination of American football and soccer, there are two different versions of Rugby, union and league, which are both based primarily on the modern styles created at Rugby School in Rugby, England almost 200 years ago. Its popularity continues to gain significant yardage against its familiar rival, soccer, also

deemed a football game.

With 15 or 13 players respectively on either side, the object of Rugby union on a 100-yard field is to reach the goal line with a series of backward passes for a score of five points for each "try," similar to a touchdown in American football. An extra two points is earned with a conversion kick after each try. Rugby league scores four points per try with a two-point conversion kick. The attacking team in Rugby union has unlimited attempts after being tackled to score as Rugby league attacking teams have only six attempts before surrendering possession. The British team plays Rugby union.

"We're trying to create an environment where we can test our younger players in front of larger crowds so we can step it up to the next level," said Capt Hal Roberts, head coach. "The players seem to have a lot of self-induced pressure that we need to hopefully sort out before returning home."

Though the team's week-long stay included some rigorous practices and competitions, it wasn't all just work and games. They managed to take on the town and night life of Brooklyn and Manhattan where they blissfully enjoyed time off until a couple nights before a game.

"We all love a great beer or two, but we want our heads to be completely clear for the games," said Lt. Cmdr. Stew Cross, one of the team's newer players. "As a new player, this is a great opportunity for me to hopefully show my metal and push through the glass ceiling to get a bid to get into the senior's bracket next year."

***During their week-long visit to Fort Hamilton, May 28—June 5, the British Army practices offensive and defensive drills like the line-outs, scrums, passes and tackles to prepare for their matches against two American teams at the University of Columbia and U.S. Military Academy at West Point.***











242nd

# ARMY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



*Boomer and Carton Celebrity Softball Game*



## US Army Garrison Fort Hamilton

101st St. & Fort Hamilton Pkwy, Brooklyn

SGT . Deon L. Taylor Sports Field

Date: Friday, June 16, 2017 | Time: 1830 Hrs

WFAN Sport Radio, Boomer & Carton All Stars vs Fort Hamilton All Stars

Come Enjoy an evening of Entertainment,

DJ, door prizes, food and beverages.

Open to the public. Registration is required at  
[www.Hamilton.ArmyMWR.com](http://www.Hamilton.ArmyMWR.com)

For more information please call 718.630.4771 / 4772



## Fort Hamilton Announcements

### *Independence Day concert*

Fort Hamilton Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host its annual Independence Day concert July 1 from 5—10 p.m. on the Engeldrum Bluff. Fireworks will conclude the celebration. For more information, call 718-630-4471.

### *Operation Rock the Troops*

Fort Hamilton Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host Operation Rock

the Troops starring the JC All Stars July 6 from 6 –10 p.m. at the community club. For more information, call 718-630-4471.

### *Metro Chamber Orchestra*

The Metro Chamber Orchestra will perform at the Fort Hamilton community club July 14 where guest artists Melody Giron, Therese Panicali and Victoria Rodriguez will also perform. For more information, call 718-630-4471.

### *First Responders picnic*

Fort Hamilton will host its annual First responders picnic July 21 at Taylor Sports Field from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, call 718-630-4477.

#### **Editorial Staff**

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**Bruce Hill**



# FT HAMILTON SPOTLIGHT

## *Meet Ernest Rogers*

**Resident:** Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Time in Service:** Retired from the U.S. Army after 18.5 years. Served in Operation Desert Storm as an infantryman.

**Job(s) with the Army:** I have worked for the Exchange for eight years.

**Family:** I have been married to my loving wife, Linda, for 32 years. I married her after three days of knowing her. We have two daughters, Sabrina, 36, Sherwanda, 27, and beautiful grandchildren.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy bowling, billiards and baseball. Let's go Yankees.

**Latest Accomplishments:** Within three years, I was awarded two Exchange Awards of Excellence given by the general manager.

**Favorite Movie:** Remember the Titans with Denzel Washington

**Why I do what I do:** I love my job, and I love supporting the people.

**Words to live by:** Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land LORD your God is giving you.

